

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS LONDON 12208

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF. UK

SUBJ: MPS OBJECT TO ADMISSION OF PALESTINE LIBERATION
ORGANIZATION REPS TO IPU CONFERENCE.

1. SEVERAL BRITISH NEWSPAPERS AUGUST 7 FRONT-PAGED STORY ON COMMONS MOTION SIGNED BY 57 MPS OF BOTH MAJOR PARTIES OBJECTING TO PROPOSED ADMISSION OF FOUR MEMBERS OF PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO) AS OBSERVERS AT INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU) MEETING IN LONDON SEPTEMBER 2. DAILY MAIL BANNER HEADLINE READS "THE QUEEN AND THE TERRORISTS" AND ITS NEWS STORY STATES IF VISAS ARE GRANTED TO THE FOUR FOR A MEETING WHICH WILL BE OPENED CEREMONIALLY BY THE QUEEN, "IT WOULD BE CONSTRUED AS VIRTUALLY GRANTING THE ROYAL SEAL OF RESPECTABILITY TO MEN OF VIOLENCE". DAILY MAIL'S LEADING EDITORIAL CALLS ON HOME SECRETARY JENKINS TO REFUSE THE PLO MEN ENTRY VISAS.

2. THE FOUR MEN ARE IDENTIFIED AS KHALED AL FAHOUM, A SENIOR MINISTER IN THE PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT IN EXILE,
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MR. MAHMOUD FALLAHA AND DR. ANIS EL SAYEDH, WHO HAVE

WORKED FOR THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE SINCE 1948, AND MR. SAID HAMMAMMI, LONDON REPRESENTATIVE OF PLO. PRESS IDENTIFIES ONE OF THE SPONSORS OF THE COMMONS MOTION AS TORY MP TEDDY TAYLOR, WHO REFERS TO THE PLO AS "TERRORISTS". DAILY MAIL REPORTS, "WHAT HAS PARTICULARLY INCENSED MANY MPS IS THAT THEY FEEL THE IPU HAS BROKEN ITS OWN RULES TO ALLOW THE PLO MEN IN. NORMALLY THE UNION WILL ONLY ACCEPT MEMBERS OR OBSERVERS WHO HAVE REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENTS". NOTES THAT THE BRITISH IPU DELEGATION, LED BY LABOR MP TOM WILLIAMS, OPPOSED THE PROPOSED PLO APRIL AND WAS SUPPORTED BY WEST EUROPEANS, BUT THEY WERE OVERRULED BY VOTES OF ARABS AND THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES. DAILY MAIL STORY CONCLUDES, "WHEN THE BRITISH DELEGATION EXPLAINED THERE COULD BE HOME OFFICE OPPOSITION TO ENTRY VISAS FOR THE PALESTINIANS, THEY WERE TOLD: 'EITHER THE PLO ATTEND OR THE CONFERENCE WILL BE MOVED ELSEWHERE OR CANCELLED'".

3. PRESS IDENTIFIES ANOTHER SIGNER OF THE MOTION AS LABOR MP LESLIE HUCKFIELD, CHAIRMAN OF PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH OF LABOR FRIENDS OF ISRAEL, AND QUOTES FROM LETTER HUCKFIELD WROTE TO HOME SECRETARY JENKINS OPPOSING INVITATION TO "TERRORIST ORGANIZATION", AND STATING "THERE IS A LOT OF STRONG FEELING AMONG MPS ABOUT THIS". ANOTHER SIGNER OF MOTION IDENTIFIED AS TORY MP MALCOLM RIFKIND, WHO HAS ALSO WRITTEN HOME SECRETARY JENKINS.

4. SHOULD BE NOTED SAID HAMMAMMI ALREADY HAS BEEN ADMITTED TO UK SINCE HE WORKS IN ARAB LEAGUE INFORMATION OFFICE AT 1/11 HAY HILL IN LONDON. TIMES OF JULY 15 PUBLISHED LETTER SIGNED BY HIM AS "REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION".

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